

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 DEAE-00 IO-13 JUSE-00 SNM-02
TRSE-00 OES-07 OMB-01 /088 W
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R 150940Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3816
INFO CINCPAC
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMCONSUL MANDALAY
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
DEA BANGKOK
AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: GDS

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1. RUMORS OF A NE WIN/SAN YU RIFT (CONF)
RANGOON'S ACTIVE RUMOR MILLS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN WORKING
OVERTIME GRINDING OUT STORIES OF A RIFT BETWEEN PRESIDENT

NE WIN AND HIS HEIR APPARENT, BURMA SOCIALIST PROGRAM PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL SAN YU. ALTHOUGH RUMORS OF SAN YU'S IMMINENT DEMISE ARE ALMOST CHRONIC IN BURMA, IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS THESE STORIES HAVE ACCELERATED TO A POINT WHERE THEY CANNOT BE IGNORED. ACCORDING TO MOST RUMORS, SAN YU AND THOSE PERSONS CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH HIM WILL BE REMOVED FROM THEIR POSITIONS, ARRESTED, OR SUBJECT TO SOME OTHER DIRE FATE. THERE ARE FEW HARD FACTS THAT COULD SUBSTANTIATE ANY OF THE RUMORS, BUT THE BSPP CENTRAL COMMITTEE IS SCHEDULED TO MEET BEGINNING JULY 20, AND THAT WOULD BE AN OPPORTUNE TIME TO REMOVE THE PARTY SECRETARY. ACCORDING TO SOME SOURCES, THE PYITHU HLUTTAW (PARLIAMENT) WILL HOLD ITS NEXT SESSION IN EARLY AUGUST, A SESSION WHICH IS NORMALLY HELD IN OCTOBER. THIS HAS ALSO FUELED RUMORS REGARDING TOP-LEVEL CHANGES IN THE GUB AND BSPP.

2. BANGLADESH PRESIDENT TO VISIT BURMA (UNC)

BURMESE NEWSPAPERS ANNOUNCED ON JULY 12 THAT PRESIDENT ZIA OF BANGLADESH WILL VISIT BURMA JULY 20-23. THIS WILL BE THE FIRST VISIT TO BURMA BY A HEAD OF STATE FROM BANGLADESH. THE PRESS ANNOUNCEMENTS GAVE NO DETAILS ON THE VISIT OTHER THAN TO STATE THAT THE BANGLADESH PRESIDENT IS EXPECTED TO HOLD TALKS WITH PRESIDENT NE WIN ON BILATERAL MATTERS AND REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES.

3. JAPANESE GRANT FOR BURMA (UNC)

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ON JULY 12 GUB OFFICIALS AND JAPAN'S AMBASSADOR TO BURMA EXCHANGED NOTES CONCERNING A JAPANESE GRANT OF ABOUT \$5.5 MILLION TO THE GUB. THE FUNDS ARE INTENDED TO FINANCE CONSTRUCTION OF A LIBRARY AND POWER GENERATING FACILITIES FOR THE BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH CENTER. AN EARLIER GOJ GRANT IN 1975 HAS FINANCED THE FIRST PHASES OF CONSTRUCTION OF THE CENTER.

4. NARCOTICS ARRESTS AND SEIZURES (UNC)

A PEOPLE'S COUNCIL RAIDING PARTY IN LASHIO SEIZED 38 KILOGRAMS OF "BROWN HEROIN" ON JULY 4. ONE ARREST WAS MADE. TWO PERSONS WERE ARRESTED IN RANGOON FOR POSSESSION OF NUMBER FOUR HEROIN AND TWO PERSONS IN MERGUI FOR POSSESSION OF NUMBER THREE. A RANGOON TOWNSHIP COURT SENTENCED A MAN ARRESTED FOR POSSESSION OF THREE PACKETS OF HEROIN TO TEN YEARS IMPRISONMENT.

5. POLICE TO DO NARCOTICS LAB WORK (UNC)

RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANALYZING EVIDENCE IN DRUG CASES IN MOST AREAS OF BURMA WAS SHIFTED FROM THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S POLICE FORCE. THE CHEMICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN 12,000 DRUG CASES IN 1976.

6. ANTI-NARCOTICS EXHIBITION PLANNED (UNC)

TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS IN RANGOON ARE PLANNING TO HOLD AN EXHIBITION TO DISSEMINATE INFORMATION ON NARCOTICS ADDICTION. THE EXHIBITION WILL STRESS THAT PREVENTION OF DRUG ABUSE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ACTIONS TAKEN AGAINST DRUG ADDICTS. THE EXHIBITION PLANNERS HOPE TO ENCOURAGE OFFICIALS AT THE WARD LEVEL TO ENFORCE PREVENTIVE MEASURES IN FIGHTING DRUG ADDICTION.

7. ANTI-NARCOTICS FEATURE FILM SLATED (LOU)

ACCORDING TO U MYINT SOE, DIRECTOR OF THE MOTION PICTURE CORPORATION, THE GUB HAS DECIDED TO PRODUCE A COMMERCIAL FEATURE LENGTH FILM WITH AN ANTI-NARCOTICS THEME. WHILE THE GUB HAS PRODUCED SEVERAL DOCUMENTARIES ON THIS SUBJECT

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IN THE PAST, THIS IS THE FIRST COMMERCIAL FEATURE. U THU KHA, ONE OF BURMA'S LEADING FILM DIRECTORS, HAS BEEN DESIGNATED TO PRODUCE AND DIRECT THE FILM.

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8. CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING FOR BURMA MAY BE POSTPONED (LOU)
ACCORDING TO THE UNDP DEPUTY RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE, THE
IBRD HAS SUGGESTED POSTPONING THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING
FOR BURMA FROM DECEMBER OF THIS YEAR UNTIL ABOUT APRIL 1978.
THE WORLD BANK DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THERE HAD BEEN SUFFICIENT
NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ECONOMIC SPHERE IN BURMA TO JUSTIFY
A MEETING THIS YEAR. GUB OFFICIALS HAD BEEN PRESSING FOR A
DECEMBER MEETING, BUT THE UN OFFICER NOTED THAT LATELY GOVERN-
MENT OFFICIALS SEEM PREOCCUPIED WITH POLITICS, AND ALLUSION
TO THE RUMORS REGARDING THE REMOVAL OF SAN YU (SEE ABOVE
ARTICLE), AND THEY MAY NOW BE AGREEABLE TO A POSTPONEMENT
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OF THE MEETING.
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Message Attributes

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